From: Dan Cannon
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/16/01 8:31am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Other than some vague language about "harming consumers", I could find no
specific statements in the complaint that clearly defines what the damage
has been to consumers. The complaint itself clearly focuses on competing
products and Microsoft's competitors. While not specifically mentioned in
the complaint, anyone familiar with computer industry knows who these
competitors are. It is clear this complaint was fostered by these
competitors and not by consumers.

From a consumer's (and industry participant's) viewpoint, the complaint
seems like a contradiction in that producing affordable software requires a
ubiquitous platform and re-useable infrastructure, but a ubiquitous platform
and re-useable infrastructure(according to the complaint) somehow equates to
a monopoly. In addition, moving functionality down into the platform has
always been a way of achieving re-usability and thus reducing software
development cost. Microsoft's competitors understand these basic tenets and
are coming up with alternatives to achieve ubiquity; they just don't do it
as well and efficiently as Microsoft - yet.

I had a vision of what our world would look like when I started out in the
computer industry some 30 years ago. Microsoft has done more to advance that
vision by making it possible for the masses to afford computing devices. We
are still in the vision's infancy. The evolutionary process will continue to
weave exciting new capabilities into the consumer's daily processes.
Microsoft understands this and is aggressively bringing these new
capabilities to the masses. They are also empowering many whole industries
and individuals to take advantage of exciting new opportunities.

I would suggest our government send a loud message that reaching any vision
is not accomplished by filing complaints, but instead by innovation and hard
work. From a consumer's viewpoint we are punishing success; exactly the
wrong message we should be sending. Tell the computing industry (and all
other sectors) to focus less on fostering legal action and more on building
competing platforms, providing re-useable infrastructure, achieving
ubiquity, and ultimately providing markets with cost-effectiveness solutions
to process improvement.

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